

12 December 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Briefing of Office of Communications Personnel on the
Support Information Processing System (SIPS)

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1. At 0945 a.m. on 11 December 1969, a briefing on SIPS was provided the Office of Communications staff by [REDACTED] of the SIPS staff. The following paragraphs contain a summary of [REDACTED] presentation.

2. The basic purpose of the SIPS system is the processing of support information on men, money, and materiel. The information will be stored in computers and available as required to Agency managers. The information is to be reproducible in a form usable to the managers thus making possible more timely and appropriate decisions leading to reduction of inventories, close control of manpower resources, and timely decisions on the use of financial assets.

3. The major SIPS effort to date has been to accumulate information on requirements, to plan and format programs, and to operate limited test and pilot systems. The target for completion of the initial requirements compilation is June 1970. The one SIPS system now in operation is called "FASERS", an acronym for "Financial "A" Station Electrical Reporting System." FASERS encompass six stations in the Far East (FE) at this time and utilize staff communications facilities for data exchange. It is a basic financial reporting and accounting system but includes other finance related items such as Property Requisitioning Authority (PRA). FASERS will soon be expanded to all FE stations, and staff communications channels will continue to be used.

4. Future planning calls for three data management and communications centers as the core of SIPS. The target for operational activation of these centers is July 1972. Dedicated circuitry with cryptographic protection will be used between the computers and the centers in Headquarters, [REDACTED] At present OCS computers are being used, however, it is possible that the future will see one or two computers dedicated to SIPS. Each of the centers will incorporate input and query positions or stations. They will also include secure telephone facilities for communications between the centers and managers in the Headquarters Building and other buildings in the Washington Metropolitan Area. Managers will telephone the centers with their

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information requirements; the centers will provide human interface to the computer data bank by converting the requests to machine language and format and then relay the nearly instantaneous response from the machine to the calling manager. Also on request written information and compilations can be obtained by the operator and in turn forwarded to the requesting manager by courier.

5. SIPS planning envisions the establishment of 44 terminal stations, one-half to two-thirds of which will be outside the Headquarters Building. The terminals will provide current update data to the computers and will receive information of various types from the data management centers.

6. There are several problems which must be resolved before SIPS can become fully operational. Among these is the accumulation of data bases, the conversion of data from paper tape to machine input, emanation shielding which may be required, and, of most importance to this Staff, the requirement for space for the Headquarters management center for its continued operation within the existing building or within a new building.

7. Consideration is now being given by the Program Coordination Staff of the Office of Communications to obtaining a further and more detailed briefing on the system. I have asked to be included when/if such a briefing is arranged. I shall continue to monitor the SIPS program.

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Building Planning Staff, OL

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